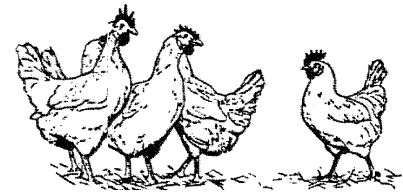


California Poultry Report



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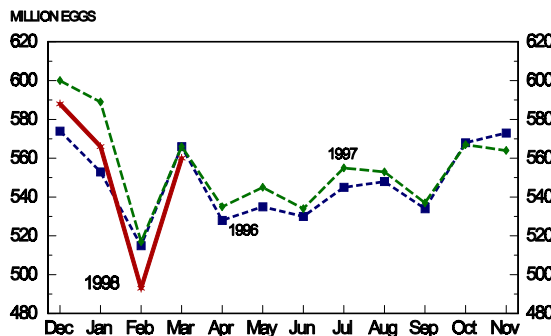
CALIFORNIA EGG PRODUCTION

California's egg production during March totaled 560 million, 67.0 million more than last month, but 6.00 million less than last March. Average number of layers during the month averaged 25.3 million, 1 percent below March 1997. Eggs per 100 layers during the month were 2,215, compared to 1,962 last month and 2,222 in March 1997.

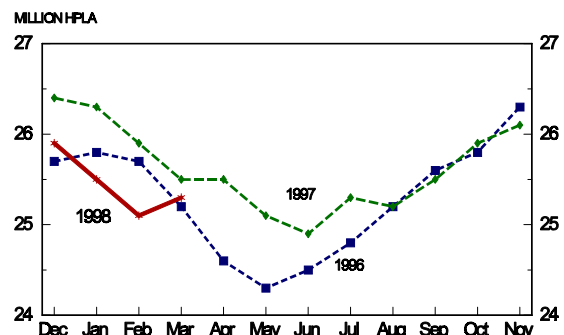
U.S. MARCH EGG PRODUCTION UP 3 PERCENT

U.S. egg production totaled 6.83 billion during March 1998, up 3 percent from the 6.62 billion produced in 1997. Production included 5.77 billion table eggs and 1.06 billion hatching eggs, of which 999 million were broiler-type and 62.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during March 1998 averaged 313 million, up 3 percent from the total average number of layers during March 1997. March egg production per 100 layers was 2,183 eggs, up slightly from March 1997.

EGG PRODUCTION, CALIFORNIA
DECEMBER THROUGH NOVEMBER, 1995-1998



AVERAGE NUMBER OF LAYERS, CALIFORNIA
DECEMBER THROUGH NOVEMBER, 1995-1998



LAYER NUMBERS AND EGG PRODUCTION DURING MARCH, FORCED MOLTING AS OF APRIL 1

State	Average Number of Layers on Hand		Eggs Per 100 Layers		Total Egg Production		Layers Being Molted		Layers With Molt Completed	
	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998
	-- Thousands --		-- Number --		-- Millions --		---- Percent ----			
Alabama	10,653	10,591	1,990	1,964	212	208	3.5	1.0	12.0	10.5
Arkansas	14,810	15,084	1,877	1,903	278	287	4.5	3.0	8.5	10.0
California	25,478	25,280	2,222	2,215	566	560	6.5	3.5	40.5	37.0
Georgia	19,948	21,199	2,126	2,142	424	454	1.5	1.0	20.0	16.5
Indiana	21,084	21,800	2,262	2,239	477	488	1.5	0.5	17.5	25.0
Iowa	21,163	23,038	2,193	2,192	464	505	4.0	3.5	35.0	38.0
North Carolina	12,693	11,210	1,970	1,945	250	218	1.5	1.0	10.5	12.0
Ohio	26,331	28,135	2,290	2,271	603	639	2.0	0.5	12.0	12.0
Pennsylvania	20,918	21,948	2,352	2,315	492	508	2.0	3.5	18.0	17.0
Texas	16,665	17,374	2,112	2,181	352	379	2.5	4.0	25.0	23.0
United States	304,160	312,821	2,176	2,183	6,620	6,829	3.1	2.2	21.8	22.1

U.S. BROILER HATCH UP 2 PERCENT

The March 1998 hatch of broiler-type chicks, at 732 million, was up 2 percent from March of the previous year. Eggs in incubators totaled 611 million eggs on April 1, 1998, up 4 percent from a year earlier.

Leading breeders placed 6.78 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during March 1998. This was up 5 percent from March 1997.

BROILER-TYPE CHICKS HATCHED, MARCH

State	1997	1998	1998/1997
	-- Thousands --		Percent
Alabama	94,036	93,162	99
Arkansas	109,957	108,407	99
Delaware	16,889	16,865	100
Florida	10,507	10,016	95
Georgia	108,305	107,788	100
Maryland	31,734	32,067	101
Mississippi	63,943	64,959	102
North Carolina	64,632	64,196	99
Pennsylvania	12,803	13,241	103
South Carolina	15,699	15,069	96
Texas	45,201	47,026	104
Virginia	24,261	24,366	100
California, Tennessee & West Virginia	37,596	39,633	105
Washington & Oregon	5,974	6,088	102
Other States 1/	77,362	89,115	115
UNITED STATES	718,899	731,998	102

1/ Not published separately to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

U.S. EGG-TYPE CHICKS HATCHED UP 7 PERCENT

Egg-type chicks hatched during March totaled 40.0 million, up 7 percent from March 1997. Eggs in incubators totaled 34.6 million on April 1, 1998, down 2 percent from a year ago.

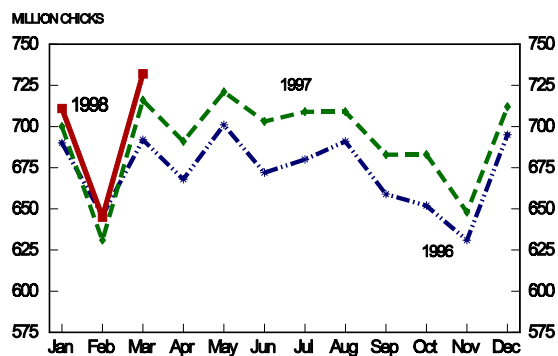
Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 225 thousand during March 1998. This was up 8 percent from the 209 thousand of March 1997.

EGG-TYPE CHICKS HATCHED, MARCH

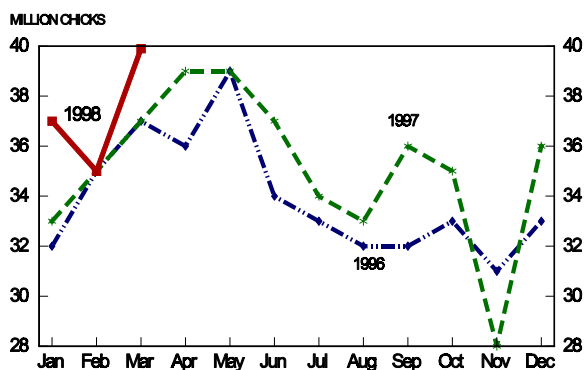
State	1997	1998	1998/1997
	-- Thousands --		Percent
Arkansas	671	882	131
Florida	1,289	1,004	78
Georgia	2,152	2,283	106
Indiana	7,377	7,334	99
Iowa	3,482	5,923	170
Kansas	251	306	122
Minnesota	1,963	1,715	87
Missouri	445	445	100
Pennsylvania	5,523	5,647	102
Other States 1/	14,257	14,447	101
UNITED STATES	37,410	39,986	107

1/ Not published separately to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

BROILER CHICKS HATCHED, UNITED STATES JANUARY THROUGH DECEMBER, 1996-1998



EGG-TYPE CHICKS HATCHED, UNITED STATES JANUARY THROUGH DECEMBER, 1996-1998



EGGS IN INCUBATORS, APRIL 1

Geographic Division	Broiler-Type			Egg-Type		
	1997	1998	1998/1997	1997	1998	1998/1997
	-- Thousands --		Percent	-- Thousands --		Percent
North Atlantic	12,155	12,238	101	5,851	5,451	93
East North Central	8,021	8,941	111	9,643	9,197	95
West North Central	22,382	22,529	101	6,049	6,362	105
South Atlantic	226,127	230,890	102	5,037	4,606	91
South Central	296,654	312,347	105	3,929	4,055	103
West	22,532	23,780	106	4,882	4,956	102
UNITED STATES	587,871	610,725	104	35,391	34,627	98

POULTRY AND EGG PRICES

The average March prices received by California producers, when compared to February average prices, rose less than a cent per pound for broilers. Prices for live turkeys decreased four cents per pound. Prices for market eggs remained the same at fifty-five cents per dozen.

Nationally, the March average prices received by producers increased less than one cent per pound for broilers and live turkeys. Market eggs increased six cents per dozen.

POULTRY AND EGG AVERAGE PRICES RECEIVED BY PRODUCERS, COMPARISONS 1/

Commodity	Unit	Mar. 15, 1997	Feb. 15, 1998	Mar. 15, 1998
--- Cents ---				
CALIFORNIA				
Chickens-Broilers	Lb.	38.0	35.3	36.0
Market Eggs 2/	Doz.	62.0	55.0	55.0
Turkeys	Lb.	40.0	41.0	37.0
UNITED STATES				
Chickens-Broilers	Lb.	38.0	34.4	35.2
Market Eggs 2/	Doz.	60.5	51.1	57.1
Turkeys	Lb.	37.8	34.0	34.6

1/ The estimated prices shown in the table represent composite average prices received by producers. They are averages for all grades, classes and methods of sale of each commodity for the State and U.S. as a whole.

2/ Average for market (table) eggs including eggs sold retail by producers.

U.S. TURKEY HATCHERY PRODUCTION

Turkey eggs in incubators on April 1, 1998 in the United States totaled 32.6 million, down 12 percent from April 1 a year ago. Eggs in incubators were down slightly from the March 1 total of 32.8 million. Regional percentage changes from the previous year were as follows: E N Central, down 4; W N Central, down 13; N & S Atlantic, down 16; S Central, down 11; West, down 9.

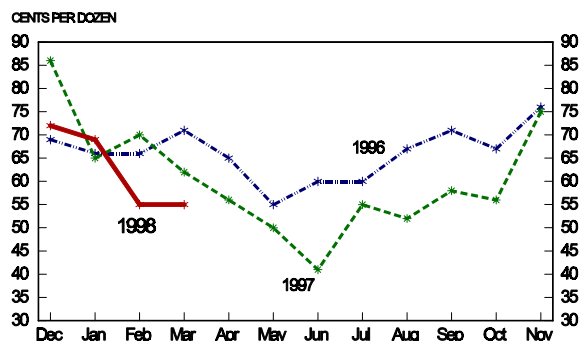
The 26.2 million poults placed during March 1998 in the United States were down 5 percent from the placements during the same month a year ago. Placements were up 4 percent from the February 1998 total of 25.1 million. Regional percentage changes from the previous year were as follows: E N Central, down 4; W N Central, up 4; N & S Atlantic, down 8; S Central, down 12; West, down 14.

ALL TURKEYS

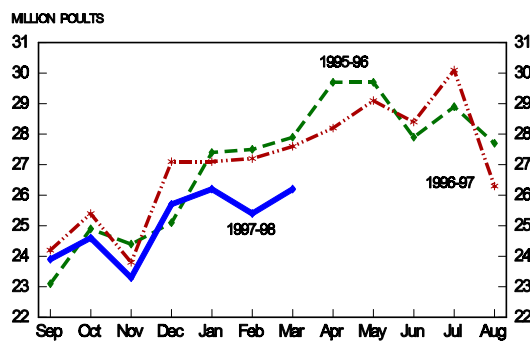
Geographic Division	Eggs in Incubators Apr. 1		1998 1997	Poults Placed during Mar. 1/		1998 1997
	1997	1998		1997	1998	
	-- Thousands --		Pct.	-- Thousands --		Pct.
EN Central	5,099	4,894	96	3,699	3,543	96
W N Central	11,604	10,043	87	8,141	8,456	104
N & S Atlantic	12,544	10,485	84	9,633	8,831	92
S Central	3,894	3,478	89	3,231	2,851	88
West	4,073	3,692	91	2,906	2,504	86
U.S.	37,214	32,592	88	27,610	26,185	95

1/ Excludes exported poults.

MARKET EGG PRICES, CALIFORNIA DECEMBER THROUGH NOVEMBER, 1995-1997



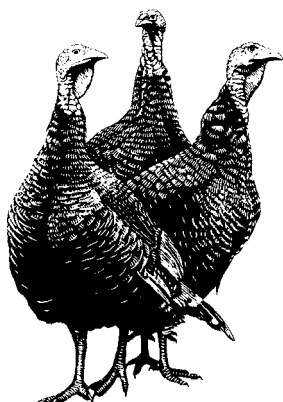
TURKEY POULT PLACEMENTS, UNITED STATES SEPTEMBER THROUGH AUGUST, 1995-1998



TURKEY POULT PLACEMENTS WITHIN THE UNITED STATES 1/

Month	Total All Breeds		97-98 96-97	Cumulative Total		97-98 96-97
	1996-97	1997-98		1996-97	1997-98	
	- Thousands -		Percent	- Thousands -		Percent
Sept.	24,154	23,907	99	24,154	23,907	99
Oct.	25,354	24,587	97	49,508	48,494	98
Nov.	23,830	23,281	98	73,338	71,775	98
Dec.	27,119	25,711	95	100,457	97,486	97
Jan.	27,121	26,240	97	127,578	123,726	97
Feb.	27,145	25,093	92	154,723	148,819	96
Mar.	27,610	26,185	95	182,333	175,004	96
Apr.	28,220			210,553		
May	29,111			239,664		
June	28,381			268,045		
July	30,092			298,137		
Aug.	26,321			324,458		

1/ Excludes exported poults.



PACIFIC COAST AND UNITED STATES COLD STORAGE

Commodity	Unit	March 1997	February 1998 <u>a/</u>	March 1998	<u>Mar. 1998</u> <u>Mar. 1997</u>	<u>Mar. 1998</u> <u>Feb. 1998</u>
PACIFIC COAST			----- Thousands -----		--- Percent ---	
Turkeys	Lbs.	60,731	74,847	76,310	125	102
Chickens	Lbs.	46,503	41,821	38,891	84	93
Ducks	Lbs.	333	528	344	103	65
Total Frozen Poultry Supplies	Lbs.	107,567	117,196	115,545	107	99
UNITED STATES						
Turkeys	Lbs.	496,482	512,668	522,697	105	102
Chickens	Lbs.	715,085	638,733	660,554	92	103
Ducks	Lbs.	1,751	2,556	3,449	197	135
Total Frozen Poultry Supplies	Lbs.	1,213,318	1,153,957	1,186,700	98	103
Eggs, Frozen	Lbs.	8,546	12,274	10,431	122	85

a/ Revised.